

HOT SHOT FOR CITY OFFICIALS.

Charged with Neglecting Public Interests in Franchises.

LEAVITT'S SHARP TALK.

Says Corporation Counsel Scott Decides Contrary to the Court of Appeals.

"FRANCHISES HELD IN TRUST."

"They Are Not," Says J. Harsen Rhoades, "to Be Given Away to Private Corporations"—Hearing in the City Hall.

Heated argument was abundant at a public hearing in the City Hall yesterday over the power of the city authorities to purchase the Sixth and Eighth avenue railroads.

Chairman Parker and his associates, Hall and Goodman, of the Aldermanic Railroad Committee, were on the bench in the Council Chamber. The hearing was pursuant to a resolution by Mr. Hall, adopted on Tuesday, requesting the Corporation Counsel to take the necessary steps, if the city had the legal right, to reacquire the franchises of the two roads.

Francis B. Thurber, William McCarrall, L. J. Callahan, D. J. Osgood and William H. Wiley presented the views of the Board of Trade and Transportation. While recommending generally the principle of municipal ownership, they demanded for the moment that the city should not permit a change of motive power on the roads in question until compensation had been obtained for the privilege.

Lawyer J. Brooks Leavitt made the chamber ring with his denunciation of city officials. "Fifty years ago," he exclaimed, "there was a man in the city government who had the foresight to safeguard the rights of the city by putting in these roads' charters the provisions for reacquirement by the city. But there is not a man among you to-day who seems capable of taking advantage of it."

"You are now the guardians of the city's interests," Mr. Leavitt shouted, while shaking his finger at the committee. "The Commissioner of Public Works is a guardian and the Corporation Counsel is another. You should be found vigilantly watching the interests of the people, yet if one of you has exercised this privilege I should like to have him named."

Against Court Decisions.
"In the face of a decision of Judge Beach, confirmed by the Court of Appeals (118 New York City against the Eighth Avenue Railroad Company), that the contracts were valid, Francis W. Scott says he has been unable to find any authority for compelling the corporation to pay for a change of motive power. His conclusion is in plain contradiction of the decision of the Court of Appeals. General Collins was in contempt of the Board of Aldermen, practically, for issuing that permit without first securing Aldermanic sanction."

John Haysom Rhoades, president of the Emigrants' Savings Bank, was even more emphatic than the previous speaker. "Why are the authorities standing mute?" he asked with vehemence. "These franchises, these rights, are ours; they are the property of all the citizens of the State, held in trust for them. They are



not gifts, to be had merely for the asking, and no later of corporations. I do not blame this corporation for asking these new franchises for nothing. It is business. There are, however, in this matter, two corporations—the municipal corporation and the Metropolitan Street Railway Company. In this first corporation all the citizens of this municipality are interested. If the authorities shall thus neglect the opportunity of making money for the municipal corporation, they are doing what would not be tolerated or excused in their management of a private business corporation.

Not to Be Excused.
"The conduct of public directors cannot be excused if they neglect the citizens' interests in these franchises. It is such action as this which makes the word reform a byword. It is such neglect of the rights and interests of the common citizens of our great cities that is making them dissatisfied. It is such neglect in times past to rise and strike out blindly at all capital, at all wealth. The authorities of this city have no more right to give away these franchises than they would have to give away the assets of a private corporation."

"Transit improvements must and will come, but they should not be brought about upon the demand of those who are moved through selfish interests or through the efforts of a few thousand speculators to boom their properties in outlying districts." James W. Fryer, of the City Club; Ernest J. Ford, of the Democratic League of Kings County, and M. M. Miller, for the Municipal Franchises Association, reinforced Mr. Leavitt's argument and favored delay at least until January 1, 1898, so that the city may act under the new charter. Patrick J. Collins, representing the railroad men as Knights of Labor, and William Martin, in behalf of District Assembly 49, argued in the interests of labor. Lawyer W. C. Trull, counsel for certain taxpayers, presented a letter from ex-Judge Earl, of the Court of Appeals, stating that under the contracts of 1857 the city has authority to purchase the two roads. After he had explained that the Third Avenue Company had secured its chance of motive power through the State Railroad Commission, the hearing was adjourned until Monday next.

MARY ANDERSON'S HOME SOLD
Property in West Thirty-eighth Street transferred to Adeline Prince for \$45,000.

Mary Anderson de Navarro has transferred her property on the north side of Thirty-eighth street, 467 feet west of Fifth Avenue, to Adeline Prince for a consideration of \$45,000. Mrs. De Navarro took a mortgage from Mrs. Prince on the property in the sum of \$20,000, drawing interest at 5 per cent. for a period of two years. The property was acquired by Mrs. De Navarro from Robert B. Currier in 1881.

Italian Peasantry at Ellis Island.

If it had been any place but Ellis Island, an observer would have declared that yesterday was some sort of a festival day. A more picturesque scene of Italian peasantry was never depicted by any artist than that which moved in kaleidoscopic series, as the immigrants from sunny Italy shifted into conversational groups or wandered about in family sets and friendly twos and threes.

Immigrants lumbering 929 landed yesterday from the *Massilla*, which sailed from Naples. The *Sanle*, from the same port, brought 250.

It was a gorgeous sight, so far as color was concerned, as they filed into the pens to be registered and discharged or retained, as the case might be. One girl wore a gown the color of the sky on a clear day, and wore real pearls in her ears.

Old women had gay-colored handkerchiefs over their gray locks. The most interesting of all was a child, Rosaria Cerasale, by name. Though nine years old, she is scarcely two feet tall. Her brother, five years old, looms head and shoulders above her, while the oldest lad, probably seven years old, was quite a giant compared with her. She is particularly pretty, intelligent and apt. Her mother told the interpreter that Rosaria could make stockings, sew and embroider. To look at her tiny hands one would think she would almost wrench her wrists if she tried to tear a cobweb. The father is a macaroni maker and is on his way to Meriden, Conn.

DOG HAD A MESSAGE.

Found in a Police Court with an Anonymous Letter Addressed to Magistrate Mott.

A small, forlorn, lame mongrel cur was discovered under a bench in the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday. When prodded out from its hiding place it appeared to be half-starved. Attached to its cheap leather collar was a letter addressed to Magistrate Mott, which read as follows:

New York, May 12, 1897.
Dear Judge: Can we ever forget your kindness to us poor, unfortunate girls? How many of us have you sent to the Workhouse on trumped-up charges preferred by crooked politicians, who will do anything under the sun to make an arrest, so as to show their superior officers their good work? Fear not—the day will come when you will receive your just due. If you take our advice you will send in your resignation to His Honor, Mayor Strong, immediately.
(Signed) THREE FRIENDS.

Who left the dog in the courtroom or whether it had been in the building for two days, as the date of the anonymous letter and its half-famished condition would indicate, could not be ascertained. Five policemen chased the dog into the street.

Another Smallpox Patient.
Gustave Welch, twenty-eight years old, of No. 1751 First Avenue, was removed to the hospital on North Brother Island yesterday, suffering from smallpox. Welch is a stonemason and was employed on the new Astoria Hotel, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth street, next to the Waldorf Hotel. He left there two weeks ago and went to his home, where he remained until last Wednesday, when he was taken to the Reception Hospital. His physician reported the case to the Board of Health, as soon as the symptoms of the disease developed. Precautions were taken to prevent the disease from spreading.

CONEY ISLAND OBJECTS.

Proposal to Run a Trolley Line Along Surf Avenue Greeted with Indignation.

The property owners of Coney Island have been thrown into a ferment by the announcement of the intention of the Nassau Street Railway Company to lay tracks on Surf Avenue.

The idea of the trolley upon the splendid boulevard filled them with such indignation that a meeting of property owners was called to devise means of defeating the designs of the trolley company. The meeting was held in Feltman's Pavilion Wednesday evening and was attended by almost every taxpayer on the island.

Judge Owen F. Flinnery presided, and stated the objects of the meeting. He said that the effect of the road on the chief avenue of the island would be detrimental to the property values and would ruin what is now a beautiful boulevard. The company, he continued, claimed to have secured the consent of a majority of the property owners, but he was in a position to state that this was false. The facts of the case were that some years ago a franchise was obtained by a corporation which existed only on paper—a corporation which had never issued a share of stock nor called a stockholder's meeting.

Dr. Al Chambers and several other interested parties spoke on the subject, and a committee consisting of George C. Tilyou, Charles Feltman, I. Prischman, A. D. Buschman and Corried Stoenbergh was formed, with power to act for the property holders.

WILL FLY "OLD GLORY."

Application Made to Change the Register of Two Ships from British to American.

An application has been made to the Secretary of the Treasury by T. Hogan & Sons, of No. 95 Broad street, owners of the *Monastic Steamship Company, Limited*, for a change of register for two of the vessels of their line from British to American. The two vessels are the *Massapequa*, of 4,100 tons register, and the *Minutic*, also of 4,100 tons. It will require a special act of Congress to enable this change to be brought about.

One of the objects for the change in register is to enable the transportation of 1,500 tons of corn donated by Americans to the starving natives of India. If these two vessels cannot carry enough of the corn to satisfy pressing needs, the steamship *Matawan*, belonging to the same firm, will also be sailed hereafter under the American flag.

NO FUN ANY MORE PLAYING HOOKEY.

Let All Bad Boys Beware, for the Truant School Is Ready.

RAIDS BEGIN NEXT WEEK.

They Will Be Kept Up Until All Idle and Disorderly Lads Are Arrested.

Troublesome times are close at hand for every boy in this city who "plays hookey." The new Truant School at Nos. 215 and 217 East Twenty-first street, is now ready to receive idling and mischievous lads between the ages of eight and fourteen years, and, beginning on Monday, the attendance officers of the Board of Education will gather in culprits from all parts of the town.

There are nineteen of these officers, and, lucky, indeed, will be the little chap who can escape their argus eyes and heavy hands. Let it not be imagined that tears will be of any avail. The attendance officer's heart is steel-proof against all such manifestations of woe.

The new Truant School is in the building formerly occupied by the Children's Aid Society, and known as the Henrietta School. Its location was not suited to its purposes, and the Children's Aid Society sold it to the Board of Education for \$40,000.

An estimate of the expenditures required for its administration from the present time to the close of the year is as follows: For supplies, such as books, fuel, kitchen utensils, etc., \$1,875; salaries of teachers, etc., \$1,400; wages of employes, \$670; furniture, \$700; fitting up, alterations, etc., \$1,000; incidental expenses, \$375. Total, \$6,000.

The act for the compulsory education of children was passed in 1894, but, owing to the fact that there was no truant school, the attendance officers have had to ask that children be committed to some reformatory institution or else have had to let them go with a warning. The attendance officer as soon as he runs across a truant is now authorized to obtain the assistance of the police to compel the child and his parents to appear in the police court or one of the public schools of the district where a court of trunks is held. There, if possible, the matter is to be arranged satisfactorily, but if the child is incorrigible or it is shown that the parents' indifference or neglect is responsible for the non-attendance, the case is then taken before the police magistrate. Unless the parents can show that the child is beyond their control they are to be held for trial in the Special Sessions Court, it being a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$5, for a parent wilfully to permit a child to stay away from school.

In a few days the Truant School will begin to receive boys. Although it is all ready now, teachers have not yet been appointed by the Board of Education. There will be two of these teachers, William W. Locke, supervisor of the attendance officers, will be temporarily head master of the school. The help will consist of a housekeeper, a cook, a seamstress and a watchman or keeper. The school will have sleeping accommodations for fifty boys. Parents who can afford to pay will be made to do so. The school is to be in no sense a charity institution. The expenses will be about the same as at any other institution, \$2 a week for each child.

The Truant School will remain open until July 31, a month later than the public schools. Each child will receive upon entering the number of marks to work off. By good behavior it will be possible for him to gain his freedom before the end of the term.

DRANK EMBALMING FLUID.

Two Men Are Nearly Dead from Imbibing a Corpse Preservative.

Burlington, Ia., May 14.—William Watt and Charles Feiderach, brick yard employes, are nearly dead from drinking embalming fluid. Last night a farmer named Brady came to town for a coffin. He got drunk and on his way home he and the coffin and a jug containing embalming fluid were thrown from the wagon.

The brickyard men rescued Brady and his coffin, but secreted the jug, which they supposed contained whisky.

SUFFERING WOMEN.

How Many of Them Have Quietly Obtained Advice That Made Them Well.

My sister, if you find that in spite of following faithfully your family doctor's advice, you are not getting well, why do you not try another course? Many and many a woman has quietly written to Mrs. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., stating her symptoms plainly and clearly, and taken her advice, which was promptly received. The following letter is a pretty strong confirmation of our claims:

"I had been sick for six months; one doctor told me I would have to go to a hospital before I would get well. I had female troubles in their worst form, suffered untold agonies every month; my womb tipped back to my backbone, had headache, hysteria, fainting spells, itching, leucorrhoea.

"My feet and hands were cold all the time, my limbs were so weak that I could hardly walk around the house; was troubled with numb spells. I have taken four bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, one bottle of her Blood Purifier, one package of her Sensitive Wash, and am entirely cured. I have not had one of those numb spells since. Can you wonder that I sing the praises of a medicine that has cured me of all these ills?"—Mrs. LOUISA PLACE, 650 Belmont St., Brockton, Mass.

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